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## BOOK NOTICES.

**Katalog der im Jahre 1903 bekannt gewordenen Erdbeben. Im Auftrage der Kaiserlichen Hauptstation für Erdbebenforschung zu Strassburg i. Els. Zusammengestellt und herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. E. Rudolph. Mit 7 Karten. Leipzig: W. Engelmann, 1905.**

Even those persons who have some familiarity with the subject of seismology will be surprised to learn that a book of 333 double pages is required merely to catalogue in tabular form the reported earthquakes of a single year that were of sufficient magnitude to be perceptible to human senses. The list is necessarily incomplete, reports from some stations not being prompt enough to be included; but the records of 4,760 quakes are given, and many of the shocks were of importance. New Zealand is not represented, and evidently too few shocks have been reported from South America. The data published in the volume are arranged in columns giving the place, date, time, kind of shock, intensity, duration in seconds, direction of movement, accompanying phenomena, area of disturbance, time (mean Greenwich) and place of registration by seismograph, remarks upon the character and effects of the shock, and, finally, the source of information. The quakes are arranged chronologically.

The care with which the catalogue has been prepared may be inferred from the treatment of the question of the place and time of the occurrence of the shock. The place-names have been verified as to position and spelling. The times are all given as they stand in the original reports, except that afternoon hours have been changed when necessary to conform to the 0 to 24-hour clock-reading. On account of the various time-standards used in different parts of the world, a column has been introduced into the tables which gives the correction to be applied to reduce the reported time to mean Greenwich time, and the entries in the tables are in the order of the corrected times. An interesting feature of the distribution of the earthquakes according to time of occurrence is that 1,782 shocks were reported for the first quarter of the year, 943 for the second quarter, 1,034 for the third quarter, and 1,001 for the fourth quarter.

Seven sketch maps show the area of disturbance of that number of the strongest and most interesting earthquakes. These maps illustrate the zones of intensity, direction of propagation and other features of the earthquakes of Vogtland, 13 February to 18 May; southeastern Alps, 16 February; western Siberia, 12 March; southeastern Austria, 20 March; Eger in Hungary, 26 June; Portugal, 9 August, and lower Danube country, 8 June, 13 September, and 26 November.

The volume attempts no further analysis of the formidable array of statistics that it contains, but such an accurate record is of the highest value to the science of seismology and to the general student of earth phenomena; the more so as it is the first comprehensive or rather world-embracing list to be published. It would not have been feasible without the initiative of the Imperial German central earthquake observatory at Strassburg, and it was undertaken on the suggestion and through the efforts of the director of that observatory, Geheimer Oberregierungsrat Lewald. At the time of the publication of this volume there remained to be published the records of the microseismic disturbances, or those which were too weak to be caught except by instruments of high delicacy and precision.

E. O. H.